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Device Agnostic Discovery Using Drupal and Bibliocommons

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Device Agnostic Discovery Using Drupal and Bibliocommons

Online Northwest 2014



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LIBRARY 

Assumption: the audience has a little familiarity with Drupal and discovery layers.



Cards against web redesigns.

We all know there are challenges to redesigning a website...

Goals of the redesign

- Mobile first (actually responsive)
- Search integration with BiblioCommons
- Make content more discoverable
- Integrate events
- Added security

BiblioCommons is the “discovery layer” we chose



- Notice that the mobile site has most of the same elements as the main site.
 - Search
 - Links
 - Translate
 - Features: all four features as you scroll
 - The blue menu menu expands on touch to provide links to the top navigation links.
- The new website is responsive, which means it “responds” to the device the user is on rather than designing for specific display types. Patrons want the same options and functions as the main site. For many, a smartphone or tablet has become the main way to access the web.
- At this time, the BiblioCommons mobile site does not include all of the same features as the desktop version, but they are working on developing a more mobile-friendly site

Why Drupal?

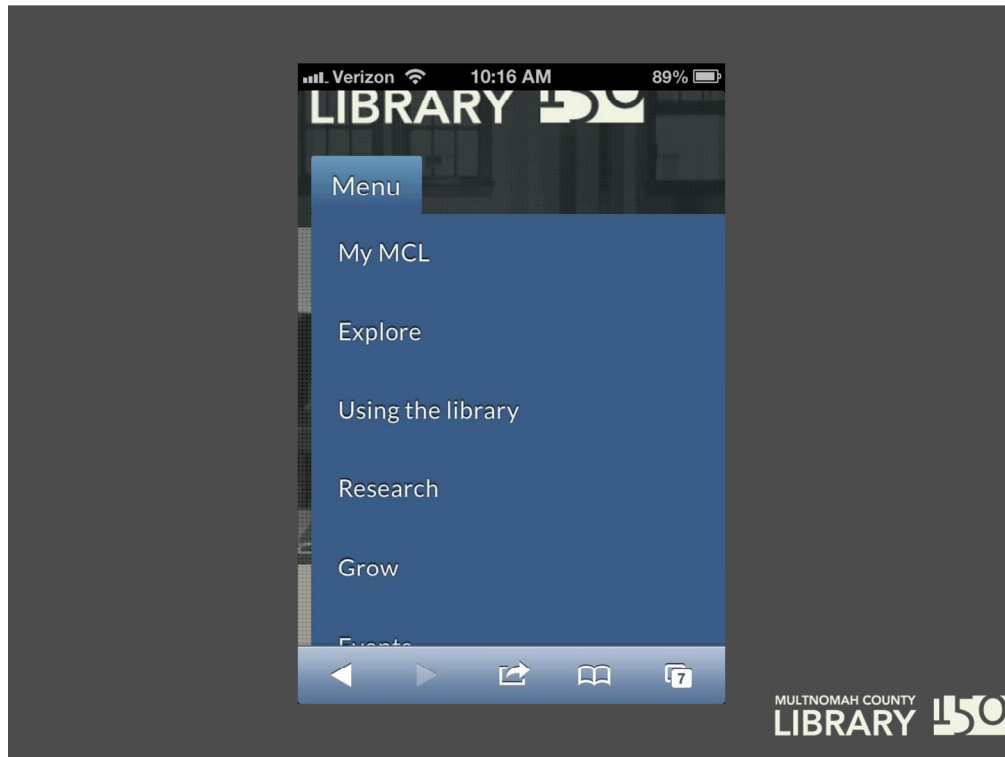
- Supported by our IT department (cloud-based)
- Taxonomy advantages
- Roles and permissions by content type

- Using taxonomies to create “pages” adds discoverability
- Able to give librarians and front-line staff access to create content (blogs and reading lists), but keep other edits centralized to the web team.

Navigation

- Usability testing
- Aligned BiblioCommons navigation
- Mobile challenges

- Usability testing: we recruited via multiple channels, including volunteers, Facebook (not our official page), and Craigslist. Also tried meetup, but that didn't work fast enough.
- A goal was to integrate Bibliocommons navigation with that of the new website. There were some constraints because of this, such as the inclusion of the first 2 top level menu items (My MCL and Explore).
- Mobile: A hover menu doesn't work so well on a mobile device as it's difficult to hover without choosing. For the top level pages that are very long, we repeated the content in the main part of the page. The side menu is toward the bottom on mobile.

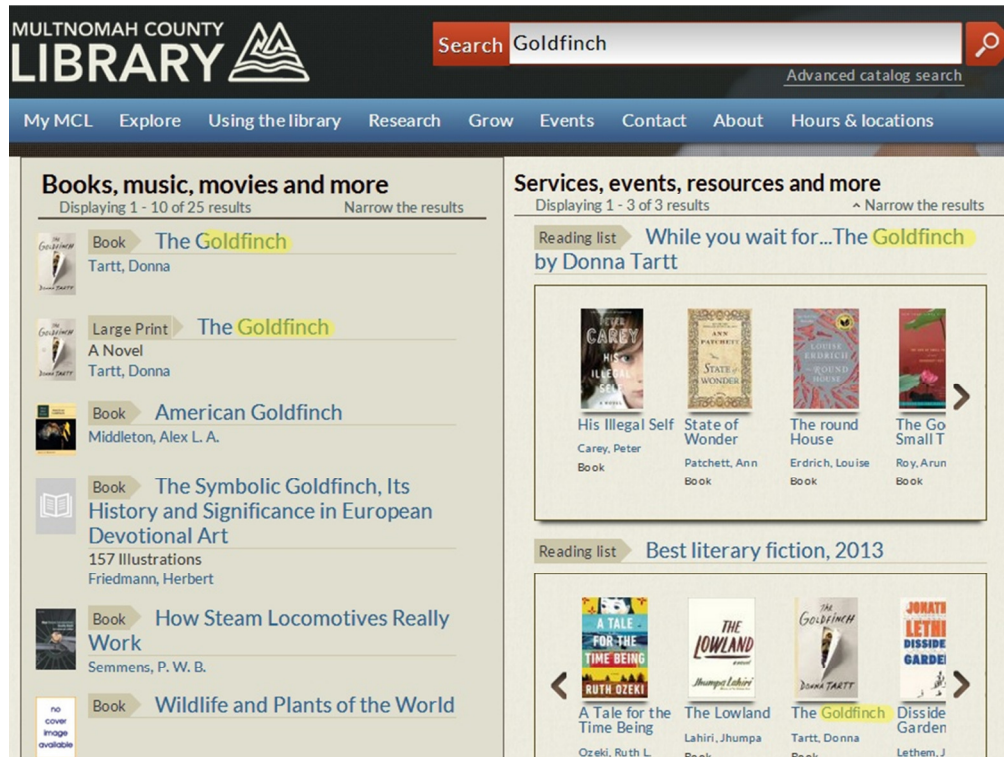


Menu on mobile. Expands when one clicks on the “Menu” link.

Integration of search

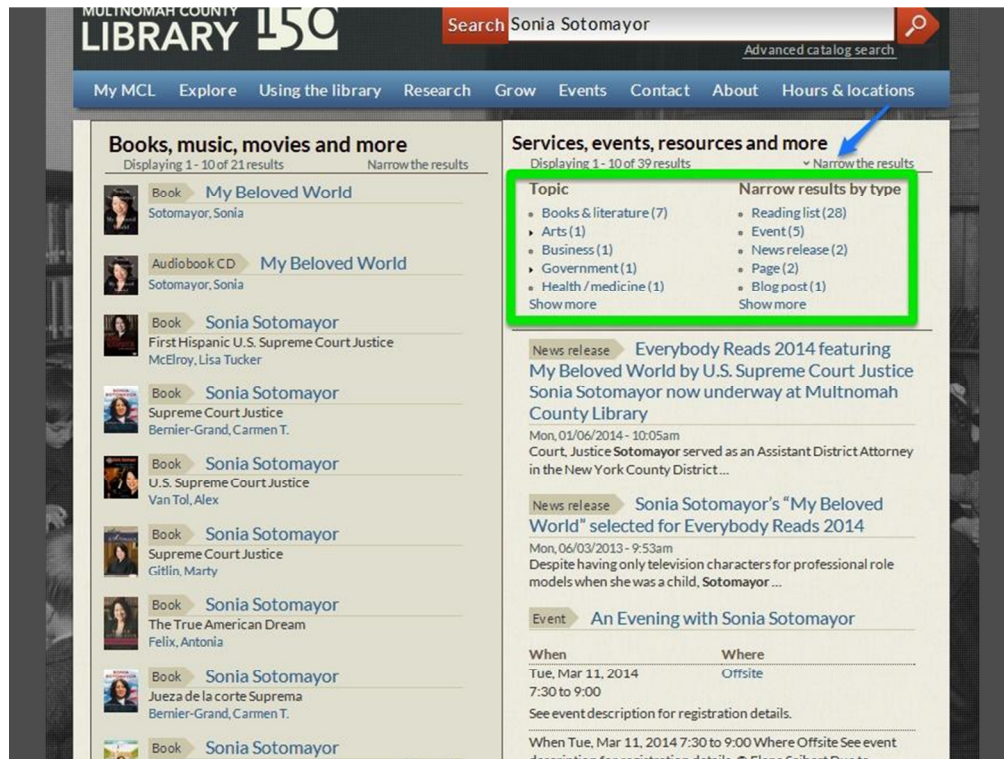
- Using BiblioCommons API
- Apache Solr
- Side-by-side with website results, including events

- Apache Solr has some options to make search work better.
 - elevations are when you map terms to specific pages by their ID
 - synonyms are when you map terms so that search treats them as “equals”
 - you can also map misspellings (freegal => fregul, fregal, freegul)
 - biasing (prioritizing) based on content type and field - doesn't work the same for pages created by terms. Works better for content types.
 - Be careful how much you try to manipulate Solr
- It was important that our website content be available with results from our “Catalog”;
Challenges:



A search for a popular title.

- Notice the Reading List carousels on the right. These are using the BiblioCommons API and our developers created a wrapper.
- We want users to see our added value content alongside the catalog record. I analyze Google Analytics search data each month to help librarians decide what reading lists to create.
- BiblioCommons results (API) on the left. We requested that BiblioCommons increase the daily limit on API calls.



- Faceted search
- User can expand to see the facets.
- Facets are topics on one side and terms and content types on the other
- Notice the event on the right.

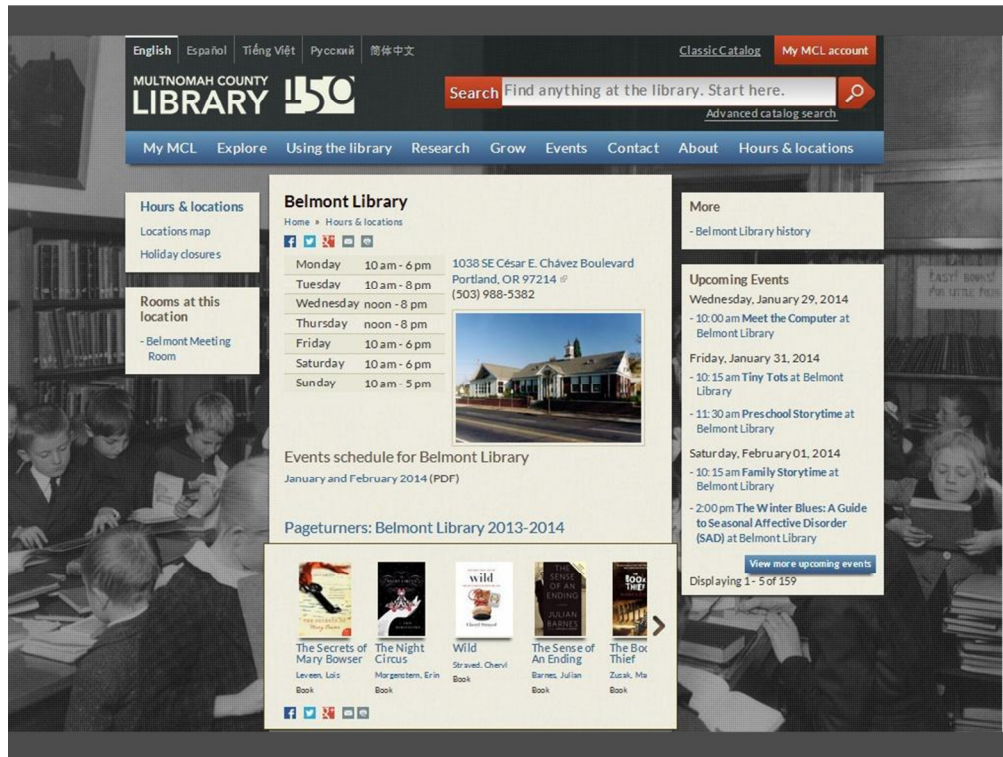
Taxonomy: making connections

- Audiences
- Event types
- Locations and rooms
- Topics

- Taxonomies allow us to connect content with other content.
- Events are a content type, but we can link events to pages by assigning event types to certain pages.
- We use locations as a taxonomy so that we can associate them with content types and link content to them



- [This page](#) is “created” by a taxonomy.
- Most of the content is tagged with the “Teens” taxonomy term.
- The only part that is actually stored in the term itself is the description, which is above the reading list.



- Assigned the term “[Belmont](#)”
 - events
 - reading lists
 - page called “Belmont Library history”
- The meeting room is a child taxonomy term.
- The hours, image, address and link to PDF event schedule is part of the term itself.

Blog Name

- None -

An Embarrassment of Riches

MCL Blogs

Which blog does this post belong in? We have selected MCL Blogs by default, but you can also select *An Embarrassment of Riches* if you are a blogger for that special purpose blog.

Location

Choose some options

Display this Blog Post on these related Location page as a facet on the search results page.

Topics

Arts ✕

-Writing ✕

Display this Blog Post on these related Topic pages. Topic will also display as a facet on the search results page.

Audience

Teens ✕

Display this Blog Post on these target Audience page as a facet on a search results page.

Genre

Choose some options

Homework Center

-Poetry ✕ |

- None -

Literacy and Literature

-Research Tips

-Research and Citations

-Banned books

History

-Local History

Content will appear on that page of the Homework

ated Language pages. Language will also results page.

- This is a view of editing a blog post. One can add terms to then populate each of the term pages.
- We are using a module called “[Chosen](#)” to allow staff to choose multiple terms.

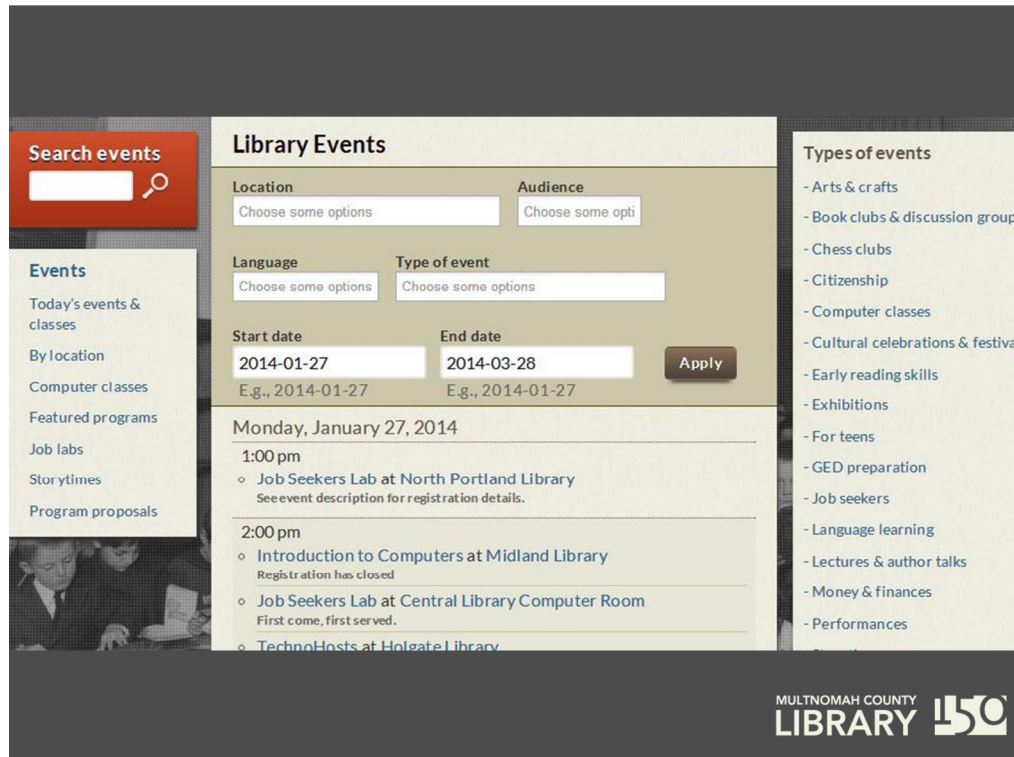
Events

Share some taxonomies with other content types

- > audiences
- > topics
- > locations

Are linked together

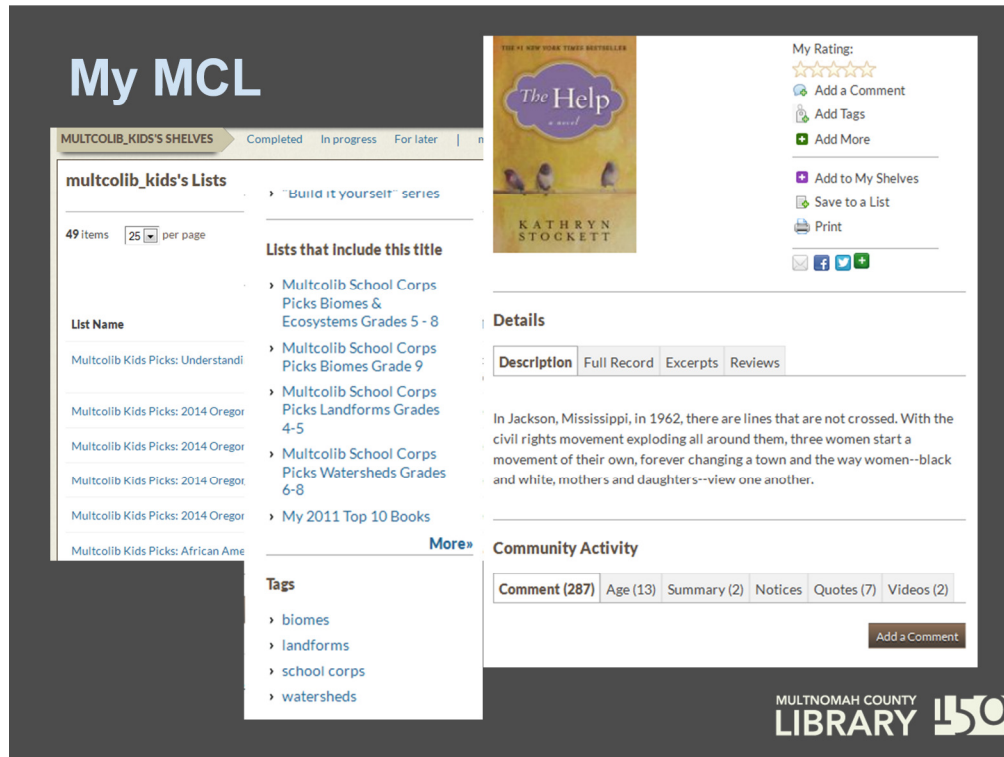
- > event types
- > programs (“parent” content type)



- The [main event page](#) defaults to a Drupal view (stored database queries) using filters (taxonomy terms and date range)
- The search events in the top-left uses a Solr search
- The Types of events is a subset of the event type taxonomy terms, which are marked as featured.



- [Popular Research Topics](#) - Interest in changing the research information on our website from link farms that we had trouble maintaining to more dynamic blog posts and content began before the revamp of the library's website. We considered using services like Wordpress, Library a la Carte and LibGuides, but with the development of the new website in Drupal, we could create our own research guides. We now have information services teams acting as curators for each topic, responsible for developing and maintaining blog posts and reading lists associated with their topic and deciding on relevant resources. We intentionally culled back on the scope of these topics to focus on our patron FAQs and special collections.
- The new [Homework Center](#) has a very similar set-up to the Popular Research Topics and is curated by youth librarians around the system. We have also received grant support to develop information literacy tools for students and to promote this site to educators and students in our communities.
- We Speak Your Language (WSYL) staff have been [creating public lists](#) in our four target non-English languages in BiblioCommons and, now that our website is also available in



Why we did we choose [BiblioCommons](#) (we branded it My MCL) as our discovery layer? Some of the reasons...

- dynamic interface that pays attention to how the web is changing and keeps up with those expectations
- community-enhanced catalog - any registered user can create public lists, add tags, comments, embed video - public content is community-moderated with an appeal process
- great for folks who aren't library experts - you don't need to know that we use the word juvenile to find materials for children - more natural language, embedded discovery features
- available in three of our 4 target languages
- allows easy sharing via social networks, email
- part of a [larger network of BiblioCommons libraries around world](#)



As noted before, the mobile version of BiblioCommons doesn't offer all of the functionality of the desktop version, but it does allow account management and search and we hope to see improved mobile offerings within the next year or so.

Drop us a line if you have more questions

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MULTNOMAH COUNTY
LIBRARY 

Let us know if you have any questions! We are happy to share.